

# YOUNG REPORTERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

14 June 2010

## Malta Wins an International Award!

The YRE International Coordination has just announced the winners for the scholastic year 2009 – 2010, with Malta getting a special prize in the photo section. The awards were as follows:



Young Reporters  
for the environment

## Photos

### 1st Prize

#### **The Struggle between Green and White**

by Yu Manting from Central Primary School at Jiangtang Town, Jinhua City, Zhejiang Province, **China**

### 2nd Prize

#### **Biodiversity : The Flight of a Wild Duck**

by Katarina Kordikova from Gymnasium of A. Kmet', Banska Stiavnica, **Slovakia**

### 3rd Prize

#### **The Pollution of Mother River**

by Lin Zhiyu from Honghulu Primary School in Jinhua, Zhejiang Province, **China**

The YRE International Jury had decided to give an award for "Special Prize" in the Photo category:

### Special Prize

#### **The Gateway to the Future of the Natural World... OUR world**

by Luke Scicluna, from Archbishop's Seminary School, Tal-Virtu, **Malta**

**Well done to  
Luke  
Scicluna  
from the  
Archbishop's  
Seminary,  
Tal-Virtu,  
Rabat for the  
prestigious  
award!**



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## **Articles**

### **AGRICULTURE & NATURE Award**

#### **It's like a Science Fiction Movie**

By Izmir Saint Joseph French High School, **Turkey**

### **BIODIVERSITY Award**

#### **PEMBREY COUNTRY PARK - Can conservation and tourism co-exist ?**

By **Wales**

### **CITIES Award**

#### **The Monster of Naqbi Water Spring**

By Soumya Chakir, Saida Hmichou, Anas Seddiki, Omar Dehmane, Mohamed Yakoubi, Abdellah Chefchaouni Senior High School, Delegation of Fez, Regional Academie of Fez-Boulmane, **Morocco**

### **CLIMATE CHANGE - ENERGY Award**

#### **Wind : Coal of the future ?**

By Jason Elward and Nathan Ivey from **Wales**

### **WASTE Award**

#### **Waste: We are not indifferent to nature**

by Antonia Holla (17), Veronika Kasakova (16), Nikola Pazitna from Gymnasium of M. M. Hodza, Liptovsky Mikulas **Slovakia**

### **WATER Award**

#### **Water in Our World**

by Kira Jones (picture and article) from **Canada**

### **SUPER AWARD 2010**

Among the awarded articles, **It's like a Science Fiction Movie**

by Izmir Saint Joseph French High School, **Turkey** was elected as Super Award

All winning articles and photos can be accessed through the international website [www.youngreporters.org](http://www.youngreporters.org) . The website is a good tool to keep contact with foreign schools, giving the possibility of linking and eventually produce a joint project. This year all local entries were individual – hopefully there will be a joint project in the future!

While congratulating the winning school, appreciation goes also to all local participating schools, including those who have not managed to make it to the final selection. Many of the entries were good and showed a lot of dedication from both the students and the staff. Not everyone can be a winner – but your valid investigations are making a difference in the environment around us, and that is what matters most! We hope to see future environmental journalists from the participating students!

One of the local investigations, in fact, made it to the news. San Anton School carried out their investigation at Imġiebañ, and, after voicing their concerns, they took action and removed an old car which had been abandoned in the countryside for over 20 years. The event was reported in a local newspaper:

Monday, 7th June 2010

### Overdue clean-up



San Anton School students, parents and staff last Saturday removed an abandoned car that had been in Selmun for over 20 years. This was a follow-up activity to the Imġiebañ project undertaken by the Young Reporters for the Environment group and for which the school was awarded first prize, and coincided with World Environment Day. The initiative was supported by Philip Agius and Sons Ltd which provided transportation to remove the vehicle.

The whole aim of the YRE programme is to have young journalists who voice their concerns and take action on environmental issues. Similar events are highly encouraged. Well done to the students concerned.

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*If you would like to comment, give suggestions or include an article please contact Ms Audrey Gauci, National YRE Coordinator on [yre@naturetrustmalta.org](mailto:yre@naturetrustmalta.org)*

## The Gateway to the Future of The Natural World...

### OUR world.



The opinion of most people living in the Maltese Islands today is that the environment is their rubbish tip. Around this structure, you can see a not-so-attractive assortment of rubble, plastic appliances, pipes, and wires, directly underneath a sign that says “Keep everywhere clean”.

Is this some sort of sick joke? If this is what we have reduced ourselves to, what will we do next? How about burning down Buskett (Malta’s only woodland) and turning it into a landfill? Or maybe killing off every single bird that flies our way? The state of the Maltese countryside is a disgrace; and the people are doing nothing about it. The future looms ahead – will we avert course, or will we perish?

But what can we do? Is this acceptable? I could not resist of not going again to this site and not taking more photos. It changed... more rude words and vandalism on site! Is this what we are presenting in the year 2010? We discuss about new environmental programme, about new ideologies to improve environment, but what is being implemented? We need to start tackling every single issue. A lot of environmental projects are being held in schools, and hopefully these will help to change mentality and help students for a better world and active citizens.

Luke Scicluna – Form 4

The scholastic year has now come to an end. It's been a positive year for both the EkoSkola and the YRE programmes – sincere thanks goes to all participating schools. Your commitment is making the world a better place to live in!

May I remind you that the annual YRE seminar will be held early next year. In the meantime plans are already being made for the next scholastic year. Many of the schools are participating in other environmental programmes, and it makes sense to integrate some of them to reduce work and at the same time reap more benefits. SKOP Malta have just contacted us and we will be launching a pilot project where schools can participate in both programmes with the same issues and investigations. Working on the same investigation with foreign schools is highly recommended for this project. Kindly inform me if you are interested.

We have also been offered the services of a local photographer who is willing to give talks and demonstrations to students on how to take a good photo. Bookings will be accepted as from September.

Last, but definitely not least, appreciation goes to all those who contributed to this year's success. The cooperation of the judges and reporters has been greatly appreciated. We also wish to thank our main sponsors – MEEF, MRRA, HSBC and Wasteserv for believing in the programme and supporting us all the way.

Happy holidays to all!

